

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 059749

TAGS: NATO, ECON, EFIN

SUBJECT: ECONADS: EFFECTS OF INFLATION ON DEFENSE
EXPENDITURES

REF: NATO 1191

1. O; ING TO UNEXPECTED CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS, DETAILED
REVIEW OF DOD BUDGET, AND TO THE CONSEQUENT EXTRAORDINARY
WORKLOAD IMPOSED ON DOD FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC STAFF, THE
U.S. PAPER ON "THE EFFECTS OF INFLATION ON DEFENSE
EXPENDITURES," EXPECTED TO BE AVAILABLE MARCH 1, WILL NOT
BE READY UNTIL APRIL 1.

2. DUE TO THIS DELAY, WE WOULD PREFER TO POSTPONE
SCHEDULED APRIL 15 MEETING UNTIL MAY 15. THIS WOULD MOVE
ENTIRE SCHEDULE BACK JUST ONE MONTH, OTHER DATES IN MAY
WOULD ALSO BE ACCEPTABLE, HOWEVER. IN SUGGESTING THIS
POSTPONEMENT WE BEAR IN MIND THAT:
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-- IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO TRANSLATE, DISTRIBUTE AND

REVIEW U.S. PAPER IN CAPITALS PRIOR TO DISCUSSION IN
ECONOMIC COMMITTEE,

-- U.S. CONTRIBUTION IS ONE OF THE MORE IMPORTANT PAPERS
TO BE DISCUSSED, SINCE QUESTION IS ONE OF DETERMINING THE

BEST WAY TO GATHER AND PRESENT DATA ON DEFENSE
EXPENDITURES, AMONG WHICH THOSE OF THE UNITED STATES ARE
VERY LARGE, AND

-- U.S. CAN FIELD BETTER DELEGATION IN MAY THAN IN APRIL.

3. PLEASE CONVEY THE FOREGOING TO THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE
AND TO THE DIRECTORATE, ALONG WITH OUR REGRET AT THE
UNAVOIDABLE DELAY. INGERSOLL

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